

STRAIGHT FROM THE STATEHOUSE

MCGREEVEY COMBATS FRAUD

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Mercer County Town Meeting

Governor McGreevey will hold a Mercer County Town Meeting on Thursday, October 17th at Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Road/ CR 535 in West Windsor.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will run from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the Student Center.

Governor McGreevey unveiled four new initiatives last week targeting auto and health insurance fraud and uninsured drivers.

“Insurance fraud is wrong, it is costly, and it will no longer be tolerated,” McGreevey said. “Those who commit insurance fraud take notice: we are going to find you and make you pay.”

The initiatives outlined by the Governor include: new rules to make it easier for insurers to cancel the policies of drivers who lie on their applications, legislation to expand the crimes that trigger automatic license revocation or suspension for health care professionals and others who commit health insurance fraud, a plan to create a counterfeit-proof auto insurance card for New Jersey; and legislation to create a new crime of insurance fraud to give prosecutors a much-needed tool to punish those who defraud insurance companies.



Governor McGreevey and Attorney General Samson speak at the Insurance Fraud Summit.

MCGREEVEY PARTNERS WITH VERIZON

Governor McGreevey announced a new partnership between Verizon and the Commerce & Economic Growth Commission. Verizon selected New Jersey to participate in its Region of Choice (ROC) Economic Development Initiative, which is designed to attract business and create jobs. The Region of Choice program markets the assets of a region beyond its boundaries in an effort to attract employers and additional jobs to the area.

"The *Region of Choice* initiative is a public private partnership that will market our economy and spread the word that New Jersey is an attractive location for business," said McGreevey.

MCGREEVEY FOCUSES ON COMMERCE

Governor McGreevey met last week with the members of the New Jersey Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and a delegation from the Dublin Chamber of Commerce.

The Governor praised the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SHCC) for its continued efforts to strengthen and expand the network of Hispanic and professional business associations at both the state and local level. This year the SHCC is being honored as the Northeast's "Large Hispanic Chamber of the Year" by the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Governor McGreevey also welcomed the Dublin Chamber of Commerce to New Jersey. Representatives of the delegation met with the Governor during their visit to the United States. The Governor stressed the need for continued partnership and cooperation between New Jersey and Ireland noting the potential for greater economic development.

The Governor led his first official mission abroad to Ireland in July 2002.

MCGREEVEY, MILKEN AWARD EDUCATORS

Governor McGreevey and Education Commissioner Librera joined the Milken Family Foundation to award New Jersey's top educators with Milken National Educator Awards.



Governor McGreevey presents a Milken award at Montclair High School.

This is the first year the awards have been distributed in New Jersey, with six educators receiving awards of \$25,000 each.

The award program recognizes exceptional elementary and secondary school teachers, principals and other specialists who are leading the charge for excellence in our schools.

Since the first Milken Educator Awards were presented in 1987, \$46.9 million has been awarded to 1,877 recipients.

MCGREEVEY MODERATES ON SPINAL CORD RESEARCH

Governor McGreevey moderated a "Dialogue Between Scientists and Community" at the New Jersey Commission on Spinal Cord Research's Inaugural Symposium.

"The goal of this colloquium is to enhance dialogue between academia, private sector, government and the greater community," said McGreevey.

"We must strive to make sure that all those who suffer from spinal cord injuries will be able to one day walk again."

Approximately 6,000 New Jerseyans currently suffer from traumatic injuries or diseases that damage the spinal cord. It is estimated that there are 12,000 new spinal cord injuries per year.

NJ SUES SEARS ROEBUCK & CO.

New Jersey is suing Sears Roebuck and Company for running auto repair centers that allegedly cheated consumers in connection with, among other things, the sale of four-wheel alignment service.

The State's five-count complaint alleges that Sears Auto Repair centers have repeatedly violated the State's Consumer Fraud Act by engaging in fraudulent practices.

Sears Roebuck, based in Hoffman Estates, Ill., owns and operates the nationwide chain of Sears Auto Repair facilities.

"New Jersey will not tolerate consumer fraud. We will aggressively prosecute any companies that victimize consumers with false and misleading practices," said McGreevey.